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FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5554

INFO RUEHDT/USMISSION USUN NY 411

RUDKBT/AMCONSUL CASABLANCA 107

BT

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CASABLANCA FOR FISHERIES ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS EFIS PINR MR

SUBJECT: LOS CONFERENCE

REF: (A) STATE 54588, (B) NOUAKCHOTT 635, (C) STATE 85109,

(D) STATE 99357

1. ABDALLAH OULD ISMAIL, MAURITANIAN DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES, OCEANOGRAPHY, AND MARINE RESOURCES, IS DEPARTING APRIL 26 FOR NEW YORK TO JOIN MAURITANIAN LOS DELEGATION THROUGH END OF SESSION. DURING BRIEF MEETING WITH OULD ISMAIL APRIL 24, DCM LEFT COPY OF FRENCH-LANGUAGE TEXT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S APRIL 8 LOS SPEECH AND MADE POINTS CONTAINED REF D CONCERNING NEED FOR SECOND NEGOTIATING SESSION THIS SUMMER.

2. OULD ISMAIL SAID GIRM HAD NOT YET DECIDED WHETHECOR NOT IT WILL SUPPORT SECOND NEGOTIATING SESSION THIS SUMMER. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT IF GIRM CONCLUDES THAT CURRENT SESSION HAS NOT PRODUCED DESIRED RESULTS, MAURITANIA WILL PROBABLY SUPPORT ADDITIONAL SESSION THIS YEAR. WHEN ASKED FOR GIRM POSITION ON 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE, OULD ISMAIL SAID MAURITANIA CAN BE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW LEAD OF THIRD WORLD MAJORITY ON THIS AND MOST LOS ISSUES.

3. BIO INFO: OULD ISMAIL WAS BORN ON DECEMBER 7, 1944, IN MOUDJERIA (SOUTH CENTRAL MAURITANIA). HE IS AN AGRONOMIST BY BACKGROUND AND WAS IN CHARGE OF THE ANTI-GRASSHOPPER CAMPAIGN PRIOR TO HIS APPOINTMENT LAST FALL AS DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES. OULD ISMAIL WAS PREVIOUSLY ONE OF GROUP OF YOUNG MAURITANIANS OPPOSED TO POLICIES OF OULD DADDAH GOVERNMENT. HE LANGUISHED IN UNIMPORTANT JOBS FOR SEVERAL YEARS UNTIL HIS RECENT RESURRECTION, TOGETHER WITH THOSE OF A HALF DOZEN OTHER LEFT-LEANING POLITICAL DISSIDENTS, AND PLACEMENT IN KEY GIRM POSITION. SINCE TAKING OVER HIS NEW JOB, HE HAS BEEN PREOCCUPIED WITH NEGOTIATING AND RENEGOTIATING FISHING AGREEMENTS

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*Mauritania
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WITH A VARIETY OF COUNTRIES. IN THIS CONTEXT, HE HAS TRAVELED EXTENSIVELY. OULD ISMAIL KNEW NOTHING ABOUT FISHING WHEN HE TOOK OVER POST, BUT HE APPEARS TO HAVE LEARNED HIS TRADE QUICKLY. INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE SAT ACROSS NEGOTIATING TABLE FROM OULD ISMAIL REPORT THAT HE HAS GOOD COMMAND OF ISSUES RELATED TO FISHING ACTIVITIES. DURING LOS NEGOTIATIONS WE BELIEVE HE WILL CONCENTRATE ON FISHING AND MARINE RESOURCE TOPICS. OULD ISMAIL IS A MOOR AND MARRIED. THIS IS HIS FIRST VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES.

4. FOREIGN MINISTER MOUKNASS HAS BEEN ON A SERIES OF OUT-OF-COUNTRY TRIPS (RABAT, DAKAR, TUNIS) SINCE RECEIPT OF REF C. AMBASSADOR HAS STANDING REQUEST TO SEE MOUKNASS AS SOON AS HE RETURNS TO NOUAKCHOTT TO DISCUSS LOS.HANDYSIDE

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